

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. – 36. (Cancelled)

37. (New) Method of handling a wind turbine blade at least during storage, transport or mounting of the blade, said method comprising:

establishing at least one mounting hole penetrating a surface of the blade,

mounting one or more handling means including mounting means in said at least one hole, and

handling the wind turbine blade by at least said handling means on the wind turbine blade where said one or more handling means are forced against the surface of the blade by said mounting means.

38. (New) Method according to claim 37, wherein said at least one mounting hole is established by a drilling process.

39. (New) Method according to claim 37, wherein said at least one mounting hole is marked with visual signs indicating a location of the hole wherein the visual signs comprise visual lines or circles on the surface of the blade.

40. (New) Method according to claim 37, wherein said mounting includes entering said mounting means through the blade.

41. (New) Method according to claim 37, wherein said handling means are connected to handling rods, plates or walls.

42. (New) Method according to claim 41, wherein the connection to said handling rods, plates or walls is established by use of bolts, thread bars, welding means.

43. (New) Method according to claim 37, wherein the blade is handled at least by suspension points established by said handling means.

44. (New) Method of manufacturing a wind turbine blade to be handled, said method comprising:

manufacturing at least a first and second shell of a wind turbine blade,
reinforcing at least one hole area of an inner surface of at least one of said shells by applying further layers of material, and
establishing at least one hole penetrating the surface at said at least one hole area.

45. (New) Method according to claim 44, wherein said at least one mounting hole is established by a drilling process.

46. (New) Method according to claim 44, wherein said at least one mounting hole is marked with visual signs indicating a location of the hole wherein the visual signs comprise visual lines or circles on the surface of the blade.

47. (New) Handling system for handling a wind turbine blade at least during storage, transport or mounting of the blade, said system comprising

at least one mounting hole penetrating a surface of the blade,
one or more handling means to be positioned on the surface of the wind turbine blade and including a surface substantially or partly corresponding in shape to a section of the wind turbine blade that it covers, and
mounting means to be mounted in said at least one hole.

48. (New) Handling system according to claim 47, where said handling means are connected to a handling structure comprising handling rods, handling plates and/or handling walls of a transport container.

49. (New) Handling system according to claim 47, where said handling means are made in metal comprising a steel plate, in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials alone or glass fiber reinforced plastic materials reinforced with carbon fiber or aramid.

50. (New) Handling system according to claim 47, where said system comprises two handling means positioned on opposite side of the wind turbine blade.

51. (New) Handling system according to claim 50, where said two handling means directly or indirectly are connected by the mounting means.

52. (New) Handling system according to claim 51, where two flanges are fastened to opposite ends of the handling means and establish connection points for the mounting means.

53. (New) Handling system according to claim 47, where said mounting means is one or more bolts or thread bars with corresponding nuts.

54. (New) Handling system according to claim 47, where said mounting means goes through the wind turbine blade next to a beam or any other strengthening structure in the blade.

55. (New) Handling system according to claim 54, where two of said mounting means go through the blade on opposite side of said beam or any other strengthening structure in the blade.

56. (New) Handling system according to claim 47, where one or more of the surfaces of said handling means comprise a high friction material.

57. (New) Handling system according to claim 47, where said blade comprises at least one hole area with one or more reinforcement layers on an inner surface of the blade.

58. (New) Handling system according to claim 57, where said reinforcement layers comprise glass fiber reinforced plastic materials alone or reinforced with carbon fiber or aramid.

59. (New) Handling system according to claim 47, where a length of said blade is at least 30 meters.

60. (New) Handling system according to claim 47, where a weight of said blade is at least 6000 kilogram.

61. (New) Wind turbine blade to be handled at least during storage, transport or mounting, said blade comprising at least one hole area with one or more reinforcement layers on an inner surface of the blade and at least one hole where said at least one hole penetrates the surface of the blade at the hole area.

62. (New) Wind turbine blade according to claim 61, where said reinforcement layers comprise glass fiber reinforced plastic materials alone or reinforced with carbon fiber or aramid.

63. (New) Wind turbine blade according to claim 61, where the surface of said at least one hole area includes visual signs indicating a location of the at least one hole wherein the visual signs comprise visual lines or circles.

64. (New) Wind turbine blade according to claim 61, where one or more of said at least one hole is part of the lightning protection system of the blade.

65. (New) Wind turbine blade according to claim 61, where a length of said blade is at least 30 meters.

66. (New) Wind turbine blade according to claim 61, where a weight of said blade is at least 6000 kilogram.

67. (New) Handling means for a wind turbine blade at least during storage, transport or mounting, said handling means comprising
at least one surface substantially corresponding in shape to a section of the wind turbine blade that the handling means covers, and

one or more mounting holes for fastening means fastening said handling means to the surface of the wind turbine blade by using at least one hole in the wind turbine blade.

68. (New) Handling means according to claim 67, where said means are made in metal comprising a steel plate, in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials alone or glass fiber reinforced plastic materials reinforced with carbon fiber or aramid.

69. (New) Handling means according to claim 67, where one or more of the surfaces of the handling means comprise a high friction material.